



BUS BUZZ



July 2006

C-SPAN BUS VISITS BOISE

What's big, yellow and black and cost \$1,000,000.00? If you picked a school bus as your answer, you would be right, but it is far from a normal school bus. It's not only the price but what is inside the bus that makes it one of a kind. I am referring to the C-Span School Bus and it was in Boise at Julia Davis Park on May 24 visiting the Idaho Discovery Center as part of their nation-wide tour. The C-Span School Bus travels year around going from state to state introducing the political side of education. C-Span can be seen in almost all school class

rooms in the United States, and is one way for students to view the most current political news. The C-Span School Bus is a 1996 GMC tour bus that was converted into a mobile news room, this state of the art school bus carry's all the cameras, video and sound equipment imaginable, it even has its own editing and sound room.

On board the C-Span School Bus is a Logistics editor, a News Reporter, and a Marketing Representative. The crew also consists of a bus driver and a technician/maintenance man.

The C-Span School Bus was launched in November 1993 to demonstrate cable's commitment to education, introducing teachers, students, and schools nationwide to C-Span programming as an educational resource. It has visited all 50 states and is now on its thirteenth nationwide tour. The C-Span School Bus is a 45-foot, mobile multi-media demonstration center and TV production unit that brings the world of public affairs to communities nationwide. The C-Span School Bus also plays a role in the networks' programming by serving as a studio or a production vehicle during live programs from remote locations.

BUS QUICK FACTS

C-SPAN School Bus was launched November 1, 1993
 Book TV Bus was launched September 24, 2005
 45 feet long, 9 feet wide
 13 feet tall
 Weighs 22 tons
 Has visited all presidential libraries
 Has visited all 50 states and state capitals
 The C-SPAN crew usually consists of 3 employees,
 2 marketing representatives, and a motor coach operator.

A school can request the C-Span school, by
 logging on to: <http://www.c-span.org/schoolbus/>



Special points of interest:

- ◆ JUNE BOARD MEETING
- ◆ TECH'S WORKSHOP
- ◆ NEW MEMBERS

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June State Board of Education Meeting



The SDE presented a Request for Proposed Rule Making and twelve funding cap waivers to the State Board of Education at their meeting held on Friday June 16, 2006. A motion to approve the Request for Proposed Rule Making was seconded and passed unanimously. An open hearing is scheduled to be held in room 201 of the LBJ Building from 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Thursday August 24, 2006 for all interested parties. Persons wishing to participate in the proposed rulemaking process must do the following: Interested persons may submit written comments through August 23, 2006. Request to give oral presentation during the August 24, 2006, public hearing must be submitted prior to August 24,

2006. The proposed rule and referenced document are posted on the agency's website (www.sde.id.us/finance/transport).

The following is a breakdown of what happened to the twelve funding cap waivers;

Buhl School District No. 412 was granted a 60% waiver for one year

Caldwell School District No. 132 was not granted a waiver

Dietrich School District No. 314 was granted a 98% waiver for five years

Kellogg School District No. 391 was not granted a waiver

McCall/Donnelly School District No. 421

was granted a 60% waiver for one year

Meadows Valley School District No. 11 was granted a 90% waiver for five years

Moscow School District No. 281 was granted a 16% waiver for one year

Mountain Home School District No. 193 was not granted a waiver

Salmon School District No. 291 was not granted a waiver

Twin Falls School District No. 411 was not granted a waiver

Valley School District No. 262 was granted a 50% waiver for one year

Wendell School District No. 232 was granted a 20% waiver for one year.

Any questions should be directed to Ray Meral or Brad Jensen at (208) 332-6851.

RODEO

The region I-II rodeo was held in Post Falls on May 13, 2006. For the first time in 18 years it was hosted by the Post Falls School District. Even though it was the Annual Region I & II School Bus Rodeo it should be noted that the participants were only from Region I school districts. Participants included:

Susan Webberding – Post Falls

Emmett Harless – Post Falls

Linda Adams – Post Falls

Joan Richards – Post Falls

Lynn Porter - Coeur d' Alene

Gary Clark – Coeur d' Alene

Jeff Miller – Coeur d' Alene

Lisa LeMieux – Coeur d' Alene

Ruthie Clark – Lakeland

Susie Moore – Lakeland

Nickole Eiter – Lakeland

Ginger Bateman – Lakeland

Annette Carr – Sandpoint

Karen Wallis – Sandpoint

Michael Matier – Sandpoint

Tempest Lester – Sandpoint

John Moe – Avery

Jean Mann – St. Maries

The Top Three Finalists were;

Susan Webberding – 1st Place

Lynn Porter – 2nd Place

Emmett Harless – 3rd Place

Ruthie Clark – 4th Place

TRAIN THE TRAINER

Don't forget, Train the Trainer classes will be held at the Meridian School District Transportation Facility on July 17 – 18. Part of the discussion will center on whether or not the department should hold three regional Train the Trainer classes or stick to just one annual class in the Boise area. Hope to see you there.



STEERING COMMITTEE

Do you know who is representing your region on the Pupil Transportation Steering Committee? If you don't just keep reading and you soon will!

Region I: Cliff Mooney - St. Maries School Dist. #41 – (208) 245-3366 bus1@imbris.com Region II: Craig Johnson – Grangeville School Dist. #241 – (208) 926-4862 johnsonc@isd241.org Region III: Brent Carpenter- Brown Bus Co.- (208) 466-4181 brentc@brownbuscompany.com

Tom Muir – Homedale School Dist. #370 – (208) 337-3772 tmuir@sd370.k12.id.us Region IV: Jack Hurd – Murtaugh School Dist. #418 – (208) 432-5451 jack.hurd@murtaugh.k12.id.us Region V: Kevin Seamons – Preston School Dist. #201 – (208) 852-1392 Kevin.Seamons@preston.k12.id.us Region VI: Karen Daw – Fremont Co. School Dist. #215 – (208) 652-7499 kar-end@sd215.k12.id.us

These are your representatives to the Steering Committee and they are also your quickest and surest source of information concerning the committee and what is happening in student transportation. Call them, get to know them, voice your opinions, and help make a difference.

TRIVIA

1. Which layer of the atmosphere absorbs a large proportion of the sun's ultraviolet radiation?
2. What three colors are found on Australia's flag?
3. In which sport is the Winston Cup awarded?
4. What is this sign called—"&"?
5. This gem of aluminum silicate is generally a pale yellow.

Answer on page 4

School Bus Technician Workshop

As summer gets into full swing with most students now on summer vacation and the hectic pace of providing their transportation slowed down, it's time to complete some of the tasks you didn't have time for during the school year. In conjunction with that, SDE student transportation staff are preparing for the annual school bus technicians workshop. The workshop is going to be held at the Meridian school bus facility again this year. However, this year's program will be a little different from those in the past, as we have added a vendor show for the technicians.

The vendor show will start at 1:00 P.M. Tuesday, and will run till around 4:00 P.M. We hope to have all three school bus vendors there, and a number of vendors that can provide products, services and information that will help to keep you informed and up to date with today's ever changing school bus industry.

SAFETY NEWS

Students arriving late at their bus stops cause serious safety problems, not just inconveniences. Many children who have missed their bus have been struck by another vehicle when they ran into the road or by the bus itself as they've chased after it. Historically, many of the "by-own-bus" tragedies on morning routes have occurred in this fashion. Children who are repeatedly late for the bus should be reported in writing to the school. And the school should handle the infraction as it would any other serious student safety violation. Exemplary school districts and bus companies also insist that bus drivers pull away from bus stops at a slow speed, scanning the surrounding area for a late child running toward them. As school bus safety expert Carlisle Beasley notes: "Drivers who see a kid late every day sometimes say to themselves, 'I'm going to teach that kid a lesson,' by pulling away from the stop.



If a driver sees a late child making an effort to get to the stop, the driver should stop and wait."

Mays Issue of School Transportation News

Wednesday morning at 8:00 A.M. we will begin with two hour breakout sessions. Blue Bird (Bryson's) will be providing a class on updates and answering questions. We have been able to get Doug Hoover from Braun lifts to provide a class on the Braun wheel chair lift. Ray Mercial will be providing a class on SDE updates and will try to answer any question you may have. Lanette Daw and Virginia Overland will be providing a computer training class. The classes will be held in a computer lab so that every student will have a computer to work with. This will be your chance to ask questions and get some answers about the departments' web site and where to find things. At noon SDE will be providing all the technicians with lunch.

Thursday and Friday will be the start of the four hour breakout sessions. Ivan Bullock has agreed to help us out again, this year a class about multiplex wiring systems and meter reading. Because of requests from many technicians Keith Akins from Ricon will also be returning this year.



WELCOME ABOARD

Mike Pinnock Supervisor at West Jefferson
Lloyd Sorenson Supervisor at Grace
Rob Zook Supervisor at Post Falls
Jill Hill Supervisor at Coeur d' Alene
Ralph Frost Supervisor at Idaho Falls
Jerry Swartzman Supervisor at Potlatch

The consensus was that he provided so much information it was hard to absorb it all in one session and that they would like to have the class presented again.

Pete Park will be presenting a class on glass replacement. We are starting to see buses with glued in glass and Pete will show us how to do it. We hope to wrap things up at noon Friday so that people traveling from the northern and eastern parts of the state can get a jump on heading home.

We certainly hope that everyone that can, will take advantage of this years workshops by attending. The vendors and class instructors have a great deal of knowledge to share and are very eager to do so. However the greatest wealth of knowledge lies with the attendees and the sharing of experiences that we all encounter through the course of your daily tasks. We would encourage you to bring that knowledge, as well as your questions and ideas and share them with your peers.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so." — Shakespeare

"It takes a long time to bring excellence to maturity." — Syrus

"Making mistakes simply means you are learning faster." — Agor

"Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes." —Kaiser

"3 Rules of Work: 1. Out of clutter, find simplicity 2. From discord find harmony 3. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." — Einstein

"A knowledge of the path cannot be substituted for putting one foot in front of the other." De Mille

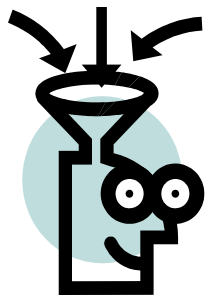
"The crisis of yesterday is the joke of tomorrow." — Wells



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DID YOU KNOW?

* Appropriately named the "Gem State," Idaho produces 72 types of precious and semi-precious stones, some of which can be found nowhere else in the world.

* A person may not be seen in public without a smile on their face in Pocatello, Idaho.

* Idaho's Salmon river, known as the "River of No Return" because of its difficult passage, is the nation's longest free-flowing river that heads and flows within a single state.

* One of the largest diamonds ever found in the United States, nearly 20 carats, was discovered near McCall, Idaho.

* In Boise, Residents may not fish from a giraffe's back.

* Nearly 85% of all the commercial trout sold in the United States is produced in the Hagerman Valley near Twin Falls.

* The deepest river gorge in the North American Continent is Idaho's Hells Canyon—7,900 feet deep. Yes, it's deeper than the Grand Canyon.

* In Fort Village County, Idaho, it's a crime to give alcohol to any elk within 470 feet of a city council meeting before dawn. (What's the rest of the story!)

* The Silver Valley in northern Idaho has produced more than \$4 billion in precious metals since 1884, making the area one of the top 10 mining districts in the world.

* Did you know that Idaho has a seaport? The Port of Lewiston allows the exportation of millions of bushels of grain down the Snake and Columbia Rivers for overseas shipment.

* In Idaho, riding a merry-go-round on Sundays is considered a crime.

* The longest main street in America, 33 miles in length, can be found in Island Park, Idaho.

* In 1953, the engineering prototype of the first nuclear submarine, the Nautilus, was built and tested in the Idaho desert on the Snake River Plain near Arco.

* Shoshone Falls (212 feet), near Twin Falls, Idaho, drops 52 feet further than Niagara Falls.

* In Idaho, it's against the law for anyone over the age of 88 to ride a motorcycle.

* The world's first alpine skiing chairlift was (and still is) located in Sun Valley. Built by Union Pacific Railroad engineers, it was

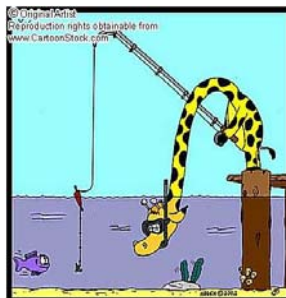
designed after a banana-boat loading device. The 1936 fee: 25 cents per ride.

* 63% of Idaho is public land managed by the federal government.

* Five of history's pioneer trails, including the Oregon Trail and the California Trail, cross Southern Idaho. Wagon ruts are still visible all along the rugged terrain.

* Between 1863 (when Abraham Lincoln signed the bill making Idaho a Territory) and statehood (27 years later), the Idaho Territory had 16 governors, four who never set foot in Idaho.

Idaho Fun Facts



REMINDER

School Bus Run Report, Odometer Report, and the Stop Arm Violations Reports are due July 17th.



ANSWERS

1. Ozone layer
2. Red, White, Blue
3. Stock car racing
4. An ampersand
5. Topaz



CANNON'S KARMIC LAW

IF YOU TELL THE BOSS YOU WERE LATE FOR WORK BECAUSE YOU HAD A FLAT TIRE, THE NEXT MORNING YOU WILL HAVE A FLATE TIRE.

RECALL CORNOR

Thomas recall 05V- 392 involves certain Thomas saf-t-liner C2 units manufactured from 2004 through 2005. There is an excessive gap between adjoining panels above the rear right side window.

Thomas recall 06V-014 involves certain Thomas HDX units manufactured from July 2005 through November 2005. There is potential that the front spring eyes may crack. If you have any questions or concerns contact your Thomas Dealer.



BUSTER

You may not be aware of the fact that our Busters are getting a bit aged, but they are. The bodies are cracking and their transmitters and receivers are failing. In an attempt to prolong their lives we have ordered updated radio controls for all three buses and installed one in the bus housed in Boise. The other two will be installed as soon as we have a chance to visit Sugar City and Moscow. We had hopes that sales of the School Bus License Plate would allow us to purchase new Busters and completely update the three that we have but that hasn't happened and it doesn't look like it will. Our intention is to use what funds have been brought in by plate sales to keep the three units we have in operation as long as possible. Once the funds run out and buses quit working we will no longer be able to loan them out until another funding source can be found. Any suggestions or ideas concerning Buster are welcome. If you would like to schedule a Buster for your school district contact Jerry Abbott at (208)332-6851 or jlab-bott@sde.idaho.gov.